

5 January 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : H. F. Hutchinson, Jr.
Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT : Proposal for DCI Warning Document

1. Our telephone conversation last night clearly indicated your expectation that I would have ready for you this week another version of the longstanding proposal for a DCI warning document. I apologize for missing your instructions or for causing any misunderstanding on the issue. The fact is that we have nothing new at this moment. Not to offer excuses but to let you know where the project stands, allow me to review what has been done to date.

2. I made the proposal to you that we should develop a DCI warning document that took a longer view than the, then new, weekly Watch Committee Report and a more selective view of the future than the monthly NIO warning reports. Harry Cochran agreed to work on the concept because he had put forth a similar proposal several years ago. After several discussions, Harry Cochran wrote a model for this document that was provided on the eve of your trip

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3. Upon your return, I inquired about your reaction and you told me that you had made some notes and that we would get back to the project when the NIO/Warning was selected and present for duty. I recall raising the subject again, about the time you selected Dave McManis as NIO/Warning in mid-October. My understanding of your comments was that you had this paper in suspense and it was to be one of the first agenda items for McManis. I informed him and Harry Cochran of that understanding in November. They were working on the basis of what I told them.

4. Dave McManis included this item in the agenda that he reviewed with you the week before Christmas. Due to my failure to understand that you wanted another version of Harry Cochran's proposal now, I had instructed Dave McManis to review with you the October proposal and to begin work anew. You will recall his discussion and your guidance to proceed on the basis of a limited dissemination document.

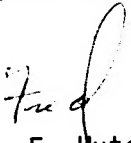
5. Stimulated by our conversation last night, Dave McManis and Harry Cochran have reviewed their thoughts with me this morning and we propose:

- that Dave and Harry quickly complete the pro and con arguments for essentially three proposals that took shape out of McManis' pre-Christmas discussion with you, and

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-- those three proposals include a monthly warning document from you to essentially the NSPG principals; or, a monthly informal checklist of warning situations to you from the NIO/Warning and Harry Cochran; or, an aperiodic checklist prepared for you by Harry Cochran that would be an additional check and balance outside the more systematic weekly and monthly warning mechanisms.

6. Please let me know if I have overlooked something you wanted done on this matter.


H. F. Hutchinson, Jr.

cc: C/NIC
NIO/W

bcc: SA/IA